

**From:** Brian Merkey  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 6:30pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

The proposed Microsoft antitrust trial settlement does not help the schools like Microsoft says it does. Much more could be done than they seem to plan on doing with the supposed \$1 billion cost to them.

Our nation's poorest schools do not need computers; they need real people who know how to work with them; they need books that are not years out of date and falling apart; they need classroom facilities which promote learning. Computers provide none of this; rather they take away from the learning which could otherwise occur.

I would like to see a punishment which is more in line with helping schools out instead of one which furthers the Microsoft monopoly. Also, a monetary punishment means nothing to such a large corporation. A better solution is to limit its actions by a tightly regulated watchdog group. This would keep Microsoft from abusing their monopoly like they have in the past.

In short, I feel that the proposed settlement does nothing to punish Microsoft for its abuses and instead furthers their presence in the computer world. Their claim of aid to children is a lie and should be disregarded. Their plan does nothing to help the kids, and as such the proposal should be rejected. In plain words: this is a vote against the settlement.

Brian Merkey